

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04291 041932Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 ABF-01 FS-01 /026 W
-----090485 050536Z /10

R 041441Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2729

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DHEW/RSA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, MO
SUBJ: DHEW/OHD/RSA/SFCP: BLIND-REHABILITATION PROJECT

REF: NEW DELHI 9800

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM MOHAMMED DOUMOU, SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAPAM, STATING THE OAPAM, SINCE INCEPTION OF PROJECT, HAS RECEIVED TWO CHECKS: ONE FOR 259,185 DIRHAMS AND ONE FOR 240,505 DIRHAMS. NOTE STATES THAT FIRST CHECK DEPOSITED TO SPECIAL OAPAM ACCOUNT AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXPENDED. SECOND CHECK, AFTER RECEIPT ON 12 DECEMBER 1974 WAS EVIDENTLY MISLAID OR LOST BUT IN ANY CASE NEVER DEPOSITED TO OAPAM ACCOUNT. NOTE REQUESTS THAT WE TAKE ACTION TO STOP PAYMENT ON LATTER CHECK.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NOTE, EMBOFF CONTACTED MR. DOUMOU AND REQUESTED EXPLANATION WHY LOSS OF CHECK SHOULD ONLY NOW BE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY AND VARIOUSLY ASSURED BY HIM (A) THAT THE SECOND CHECK HAD BEEN DEPOSITED TO THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT BUT HAD NOT BEEN DRAWN ON (RABAT 5216, SEPTEMBER 24, 1976), AND (B) THAT THE FUNDS REPRESENTED BY THE SECOND CHECK WERE IN THE HANDS OF DR. BENJELLOUN,
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FORMER PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER IN CASABLANCA (REFTEL). MR. DOUMOU REPLIED THAT HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS HAD BEEN HIS BEST KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME AND ONLY RECENTLY HAD HE DISCOVERED THAT THE SECOND CHECK WAS APPARENTLY LOST.

3. EMBASSY INITIATING INQUIRY TO RFC PARIS (FY 1974 FISCAL RECORDS NO LONGER AT POST) TO IDENTIFY CHECK

NUMBER. WHEN RECEIVED, WILL CHECK WITH BANK HOLDING EMBASSY ACCOUNT TO DETERMINE IF THE CHECK WAS EVER NEGOTIATED AND IF SO, BY WHOM. MR. DOUMOU WAS INFORMED THAT PENDING THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION, NEGOTIATION OF REMAINING POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN THE PROPOSED NEW AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IN ABEYANCE. MR. DOUMOU SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BUT ADDED HE WAS CONFIDENT WE WOULD FIND THAT CHECK, MADE OUT IN FAVOR OF OAPAM, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED BY UNAUTHORIZED PARTIES.

4. IN A SEPARATE COMMENT, MR. DOUMOU MENTIONED THAT THE OAPAM PRESIDENT, PRINCESS LAMIA SOLH, CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT, IN A NEW PROJECT AGREEMENT, BOTH HIMSELF AND MRS. ABABOU, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, BE CORESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT PRINCESS LAMIA HAD ALREADY SIGNED THE AGREEMENT, LEAVING BLANK FOR THE MOMENT, THE SPACE FOR THE NAME OF PAYEE OR FINANCIAL OFFICER.

5. COMMENT: MR. DOUMOU'S BELATED DISCOVERY AND REVELATION OF THE MISSING SECOND TRANCHE CHECK IS A SERIOUS MATTER AND CASTS, AT THE VERY LEAST, SOME DOUBT ON THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY EXERCISED BY OAPAM IN HANDLING US FUNDS. WE WILL ADVISE SOONEST OUR INDEPENDENT FINDINGS ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE CHECK IN QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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